

Claims:

1. A mission responsive ordnance, comprising:

a plurality of projectiles arranged in a bundled configuration, said bundled configuration defining a substantially solid structure with each of said plurality of projectiles forming a geometric portion of said substantially solid structure;

first means for maintaining said bundled configuration with said first means and said plurality of projectiles coupled together to form, in a unitary mode of operation, an integral structural element that bears loads generated when said bundled configuration strikes and penetrates a target; and

second means within said bundled configuration for, in a sub-divided mode of operation, selectively rendering said first means inoperative before a target is struck wherein said plurality of projectiles are released from said bundled configuration into a surrounding environment.

2. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 1 wherein said plurality of projectiles comprises a core projectile and a plurality of peripheral projectiles distributed radially about said core projectile.

1 3. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 1 wherein said
2 substantially solid structure is cylindrical.

1 4. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 1 wherein said
2 substantially solid structure comprises a projectile shape.

1 5. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 1 wherein said
2 second means comprises at least one explosive charge.

1 6. A mission responsive ordnance, comprising:

2 a plurality of individually explosive projectiles
3 arranged in a bundled configuration, said bundled
4 configuration defining a substantially solid structure with
5 each of said plurality of projectiles forming a geometric
6 portion of said substantially solid structure;

7 first means for maintaining said bundled configuration
8 with said first means and said plurality of individually
9 explosive projectiles coupled together to form, in a unitary
10 mode of operation, an integral structural element that bears
11 loads generated when said bundled configuration strikes and
12 penetrates a target; and

13 second means within said bundled configuration for, in
14 a sub-divided mode of operation, selectively rendering said
15 first means inoperative before a target is struck wherein
16 said plurality of individually explosive projectiles are
17 released from said bundled configuration into a surrounding
18 environment.

1 7. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 6 wherein said
2 plurality of projectiles comprises a core projectile and a
3 plurality of peripheral projectiles distributed radially
4 about said core projectile.

1 8. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 6 wherein said
2 substantially solid structure is cylindrical.

1 9. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 6 wherein said
2 substantially solid structure comprises a projectile shape.

1 10. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 6 wherein said
2 second means comprises at least one explosive charge.

1 11. A mission responsive ordnance, comprising:

2 a plurality of projectiles arranged in a bundled
3 configuration, said bundled configuration defining a
4 substantially solid structure with each of said plurality of
5 projectiles forming a geometric portion of said substantially
6 solid structure;

7 first means for maintaining said bundled configuration
8 with said first means and said plurality of projectiles
9 coupled together to form, in a unitary mode of operation, an
10 integral structural element that bears loads generated when
11 said bundled configuration strikes and penetrates a target;
12 and

13 second means within said bundled configuration for, in
14 a sub-divided mode of operation, selectively rendering said
15 first means inoperative before a target is struck, said
16 second means further coupled to at least a portion of said
17 plurality of said projectiles for expelling each of said
18 projectiles from said bundled configuration into a
19 surrounding environment.

1 12. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 11 wherein
2 said plurality of projectiles comprises a core projectile and
3 a plurality of peripheral projectiles distributed radially
4 about said core projectile.

1 13. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 11 wherein
2 said substantially solid structure is cylindrical.

1 14. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 11 wherein
2 said substantially solid structure comprises a projectile
3 shape.

1 15. A mission responsive ordnance as in claim 11 wherein
2 said second means comprises at least one explosive charge.